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FEBRUARY 14.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

On the resemblance of the primitive foraminifera and of ovarian Ova.—Prof. RYDER remarked that upon cutting sections of nearly mature ovarian ova with their investing membrane, zona radiata, in place, it was found that, in quite a number of cases, fine protoplasmic processes or pseudopods extended from the peripheral layer of protoplasm of the egg, through its capsule or zona and joined the cells of the granulosa or discus proligerus. This arrangement reminded one forcibly of the filamentous pseudopods extended from a Heliozoön or of the slender pseudopods extended through the perforations in the walls of the single chambers of *Globigerina*. This resemblance was all the more suggestive if one will compare a section of one of the chambers of a *Globigerina* made through the calcareous shell and its contained protoplasm with a similar section through the ovum of the Gar Pike, where the zona is formed of pillars of homogenous matter. Such prolongations of pseudopods through the investing zona radiata in the case of many species of animal forms, shows fairly well that this must be the principal means by which new matter is taken up from without and incorporated, as there is no direct extension of the vascular system into the egg, by which it can take up nutriment. It is thus seen that the early stages of the growing ovum, not only resemble some of the lower forms of Heliozoa and *Foraminifera* as respects the grade of their morphological differentiation but also as to the mode in which they exhibit their nutritive or physiological activities. This resemblance is still further heightened if a form like *Orbulina* is compared with certain stages of the development of ova. It is thus seen that, in many cases, the ovarian germ, at least, passes through a stage which may be morphologically as well as physiologically compared with some of the lowest grades of the *Protozoa*.

Chaetopterus from Florida.—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to specimens which were collected in the trip of Prof. Heilprin and Mr. Willcox, at the mouth of the Manatee River. The species appears to be the *Chaetopterus pergamentaceus* of Cuvier, originally described from specimens from the West Indies. It is a remarkable form. It belongs to the Tubicolae or tube-living worms, but unlike most of these, is devoid of the numerous cephalic appendages, or tentacles and gills. The tube is membranous and laminated in structure and it has the appearance of parchment. The two tubes collected are 16 inches long by $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch in diameter, and tapering towards the ends. An incomplete worm, not well preserved on account of its delicacy, in its present condition is 9 inches long,